

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8196

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COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: MIKI'S APRIL 3 PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. IN APRIL 3 PRESS CONFERENCE PRIME MINISTER MIKI REITERATED THAT GOJ POLICY CALLED FOR A THOROUGHGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED PROBLEM AND SAID THAT, WHILE IT WAS UP TO JAPANESE TO INVESTIGATE SCANDAL, THEMSELVES, USG DATA WOULD BE HELPFUL: US CONDITIONS WERE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH JAPANESE LAW AND CUSTOMS. HE SAID THAT LOCKHEED PROBLEM ALSO HAD MORAL ASPECTS WHICH MUST BE HANDLED BY THE GOJ, DIET AND POLITICAL PARTIES. HE SAID THAT REPORTS ON CIA ACTIVITIES TOWARD JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD BE CLARIFIED AND THAT USG COOPERATION MAY BECOME NECESSARY. HE IMPLIED HE WAS NOT CONSIDERING THE DISPATCH OF A SPECIAL ENVOY REGARDING THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR, ALTHOUGH QUESTION COULD ARISE THAT WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND JAPAN. MIKI STRESSED THE NEED FOR DIET NORMALIZATION, AND SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS NOT THINKING OF

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A LOWER HOUSE DISSOLUTION AND HAD NO THOUGHT OF

RESIGNING. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER MIKI LED OFF APRIL 3 PRESS CONFERENCE BY REITERATING FUNDAMENTAL GOJ POLICY TO CONDUCT A THOROUGHGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR: THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO END INCONCLUSIVELY. TO ATTEMPT TO PUT THE LID ON PROBLEM THAT HAD INVITED SO MUCH SUSPICION FROM THE PEOPLE WOULD HINDER THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PARLIMENTARY POLITICS. HE SAID THAT GOJ INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES HAD EXERTED MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO DETERMINE THE FACTS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. AS THE SCANDAL HAD ITS ORIGINS IN JAPAN, IT WAS UP TO THE JAPANESE ALONE TO FIND A SOLUTION. LOCKHEED ALSO INVOLVES THE US, HOWEVER, AND AS THE US HOLDS A GREAT DEAL OF DATA, ITS COOPERATION IS NECESSARY. THEREFORE, HE HAD REQUESTED THE SPECIAL COOPERATION OF PRESIDENT FORD AND THE PRESIDENT PROMISED FULL USG COOPERATION, BUT ATTACHED CERTAIN CONDITIONS. IN THE LIGHT OF JAPANESE LAWS AND CUSTOMS, SUCH CONDITIONS WERE NOT IMPROPER AND, AS US COOPERATION WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSSTANCE IN THE JAPANESE INVESTIGAGION, THEY WERE ACCEPTED.

2. MIKI SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE LOCKHEED PROBLEM WAS NOT MERELY A LEGAL OR CRIMINAL PROBLEM: IT WAS ALSO ONE OF POLITICAL MORALITY AND BOTH ASPECTS MUST BE PURSUED AT THE SAME TIME. THE DIET, GOJ, AND POLITICAL PARTIES MUST STRIVE TOWARD ESTABLISHING POLITICAL MORALITY. THE LDP AND GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT THE DIET ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITIES AND SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO COPE WITH LOCKHEED BY ESTABLISHING A LOCKHEED SPECIAL COMMITTEE. MIKI SAID THAT THE DELAY OF THE BUDGET WAS HAVING AN EFFECT ON THE PEOPLES' LIVELIHOOD AND URGED NORMALIZATION. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO FEAR THAT A S A RESULT OF DIET NORMALIZATION THE LOCKHEED PROBLEM WOULD BE FORGOTTEN.

3. DURING QUESTION PERIOD MIKI WAS PRESSED ON HIS ACCEPTANCE OF US CONDITIONS IN THE LIGHT OF HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPEATED PROMISES TO PUBLICIZE ALL MATERIALS. MIKI REVIEWED THE BIDDING ON THIS POINT, POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONDITIONS AND CITED US LEGAL RESTRAINTS, INCLUDING THE COURT RESTRAINING ORDER ON THE SEC. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE USG HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO BE COOPERATIVE WITHIN THE RESTRAINT IMPOSED BY US LAW. AS HIS MAIN PURPOSE WAS THE DISCOVERY OF THE

TRUTH, HE HAD ACCEPTED US CONDIIONS.

4. MIKI SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT DIRECTLY EXAMINE US DATA. AS PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, HE WOULD RECEIVE REPORTS AND IF THE NAMES OF "HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE CONTAINED IN THE DATA, THAT WOULD BECOME CLEAR IN COURT: HE WOULD NOT LET THE PROBLEM END INCONCLUSIVELY. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE PUBLICATION OF DATA IN CRIMINAL CASES WAS PROHIBITED BY LAW, THE LAW PERMITTED AN EXCEPTION. IF IT WERE DETERMINED TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, BUT HE COULD NOT GIVE A CONCLUSIVE OPINION AT THIS STAGE, NOR COULD HE PREDICT WHEN JAPANESE INVESTIGAIONS MIGHT BE COMPLETED.

5. REGARDING DOUBTS ABOUT LDP INTENTIONS, MIKI SAID THAT UNANIMOUS PARTY POLICY CALLED FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. HE DID NOT THINK HE HAD MOVED TOO FAST IN CALLING FOR A THOROUGHGOING INVESTIGATION AND, IN FACT, SOME PEOPLE HAD BEEN SAYING HE HAD NOT BEEN AGRESSIVE ENOUGH.

6. WHEN ASKED HOW THE LDP WOULD RESPOND TO PRESS REPORTS THAT CIA MONEY HAD FLOWED TO JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES, MIKI SAID THAT IT WAS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM AND THE FACTS MUST BE CLARIFIED. WHEN PRESSED, MIKI SAID THAT, AS THE CIA WAS A US GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, USG COOPERATION MAY BECOME NECESSARY.

7. ON THE QUESTION OF THE DISPATCH OF A SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE US, MIKI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING US-JAPAN RELATIONS AND SAID THAT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECTED FURTHER DISUSSIONS WITH THE USG ON LOCKHEED ISSUES WITHOUT THE DISPATCH OF AN ENVOY.

8. MIKI STRESSED THAT HE HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE DIET NORMALIZATION IN ORDER TO GET ON WITH THE BUDGET. HE SAID HE WAS NOT CONSIDERING UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE BUDGET. HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS NOT THINKING OF A DISSOLUTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE OR A CABINET RESOLUTION.

9. COMMENT. MIKI HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BUT ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO HIM, HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO DO SO OUTSIDE OF THE DIET, FEARING THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN CRITICISM THAT HE

WAS IGNORING THAT BODY. MIKI'S STATEMENT AND
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS LARGELY REHASHED PREVIOUS
MATERIALS BUT DID RESULT IN SEVERAL CLEAR-CUT
STATEMENTS THAT HE IS NOT PLANNING A LOWER HOUSE
DISSOLUTION OR RESIGNATION OF THE CABINET, AT LEAST
UNTIL LOCKHEED IS RESOLVED IN SOME WAY. CONFERENCE
ALSO OFFERED HIM OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DIRECT
PUBLIC APPEAL FOR DIET NORMALIZATION BUT APPEARED TO
OFFER NOTHING NEW TO OPPOSITION.
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